

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 141105Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6109

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6735

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI CB

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF FANK GENERALS

REF: PHNOM PENH 6466

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY MAY 8 SUGGESTIONS (REFTEL) AND SOME SUBSEQUENT PRODDING THROUGH HIS AIDES, PRESIDENT LON NOL SIGNED ON MAY 13 TWO DECREES RETIRING FOUR MAJOR GENERALS AND SIX BRIGADIER GENERALS FROM FANK. ALTHOUGH WE MENTIONED ONLY GENERAL CATEGORIES AND NO NAMES WHEN PRESSING FOR RETIREMENTS, VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE RETIRED OFFICERS FIGURED HIGH ON OUR LIST OF DEADWOOD. THEY INCLUDED FOR EXAMPLE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL MG CHHUON CHHUM, DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL STAFF MG PEOU LIM VAR, FANK INSPECTOR GENERAL MG CHHAY LAY, PHNOM PENH GARRISON COMMANDER BG SOK CHIEP, AND FORMER LOVEK COMMANDER TUM YAM.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, BG EK PROEUNG ASSURED US THAT OTHER RETIREMENT ACTIONS WILL FOLLOW. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO PROCEED BY STAGES FOR POLITICAL REASONS. AS MOST OF THE OFFICERS IN THE MAY 13 DECREES ARE PAST RETIREMENT AGE, AND A FEW OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT HAVE AT ONE TIME OR

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ANOTHER REQUESTED RETIREMENT, THE FIRST CONTINGENT

SHOULD NOT CAUSE LON NOL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 6735 RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. TWOHIE,S-S/O.

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NNN

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